



UNITED STATES ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION AGENCY

REGION IX

100 CALIFORNIA STREET
SAN FRANCISCO, CALIFORNIA 94111

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DIVISION OF WATER QUALITY

To All Interested Government Agencies and Public Groups

In accordance with the procedures for the preparation of environmental impact statements, an environmental review has been performed on the proposed Agency action below:

Official Project Name: San Mateo County Mid-Coastside
Facilities Consolidation -
Ocean Outfall

Official Project No.: C-06-1022

State Clearinghouse No.: 75090824

Applicant: Sewer Authority Mid-Coastside

Project Location: The Communities of Montara and
Granada and the City of Half Moon
Bay, San Mateo County, California

Estimated Federal Financial Share: \$825,000

Estimated State and Local Financial Share: \$275,000

The Sewer Authority Mid-Coastside (S.A.M.) is a joint powers agency composed of three sanitary agencies along the coastside in San Mateo County, California, and approximately thirty miles south of San Francisco (see attached map).

The three member agencies of S.A.M., which carry out the wastewater treatment and disposal functions within the Mid-Coastside service area, are the City of Half Moon Bay, the El Granada Sanitary District, and the Montara Sanitary District. The City of Half Moon Bay currently discharges secondary treated effluent to a short outfall located in the rocky area of Pt. Montara, south of Montara Beach. El Granada discharges primary treated effluent to the ocean via a short, shallow outfall near Pillar Point, which is an area of special biological significance (A.S.B.S.).

The purpose of this proposed project is to remove the Montara and Granada Sanitary Districts' discharges from areas of special biological significance by consolidation of their disposal facilities. A new ocean outfall will be constructed adjacent to the City of Half Moon Bay's existing outfall (see attached sketch). This new 1,400-foot long 3.46 mgd capacity outfall will replace the short outfalls presently being used by the Granada and Montara Sanitary Districts. Also, an outfall sewer (.9 mgd) will be constructed from the existing Half Moon Bay Treatment Plant to the Half Moon Bay Golf Course to allow the secondary treated effluent to be reclaimed for irrigation purposes by the golf course, flower growers and farmers. The impacts of the consolidation of the treatment facilities at the existing Half Moon Bay Wastewater Treatment Plant were disclosed under a separate Negative Declaration previously issued.

The principal primary impact of the project implementation will be the beneficial effects of the elimination of wastewater discharges at Pillar Point and Pt. Montara which impact the James V. Fitzgerald Marine Reserve, local flora and fauna and recreational uses of the local beaches. The primary impact of concern is that of aesthetic and health problems at the beaches within Half Moon Bay. These impacts will be mitigated by the proper design of the ocean outfall to obtain 100:1 dilution ratios and by providing for adequate disinfection prior to discharge.

This project has been field checked by a qualified archeologist, and it was his determination that there are no cultural or historical features located in the direct impact zone. The State Historic Preservation Officer (SHPO) has concurred that there will be no effect as a result of this project on properties included on or eligible for inclusion on the National Register.

No adverse secondary impacts are expected to occur from the construction or operation of this outfall. An extensive oceanographic study was conducted to determine the location chosen for the proposed ocean outfall. That study has shown that no species of fish or other aquatic life (except for some benthic worms) habitate the area in which this outfall is to be located. Almost no benthic organisms are found in the area because of bay currents which cause pervasive shifting of sands on the bay floor.

EPA came to the conclusions described above after reviewing the project report, environmental impact assessment and public hearing summary prepared by the applicant. In addition, EPA reviewed comments received from the involved State and Federal agencies.

As stated above, the review process did not indicate significant environmental impacts would result from the proposed project. Consequently, EPA has made the preliminary decision not to prepare an environmental impact statement.

An environmental impact appraisal, which summarizes the conclusions of the EPA review, is on file with the other project materials and available for public scrutiny at the above EPA office. Additionally, copies of the environmental impact appraisal may be obtained at cost by contacting that office.

Comments on this decision may be submitted for consideration by EPA within 15 working days from the date of this Notice. No administrative action will be taken by EPA on the above project prior to the expiration of this period.

If there are any requests for additional information, please do not hesitate to call the Grants Administration Section at (415) 556-5105.

Shirley M. Prindiville

for Paul De Falco, Jr.
Regional Administrator